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To Schant for briefing of Lagers, 24 Feb 1965
Skilled version of OC & W 4356 with slight change

Following is the text of a desk-level analysis of the Erik HEINE case performed in July, 1963.

1. The bases of suspicion of Erik HEINE are

a. His fantastic story of his life during World War II, his numerous arrests and escapes from Soviet prison camps, and finally his escape from the USSR (Estonia) to the West.

b. His seemingly over-zealous anti-communist activities since his arrival in Canada.

c. His more recent creation of dissension among Estonians, particularly emigre group leaders, during his current trip to the United States.

2. Basing on three separate versions of HEINE's biography, the first furnished by him to American authorities in Germany in late 1956 - early 1957, the second to Canadian officials, and the third to Estonian emigre sources, we have made a tentative analysis of this case. The conclusion is that it is highly likely that HEINE was recruited by the Soviets in 1940, his RIS mission being to ferret out members of anti-Soviet elements in the prison camps and later among Estonian partisans. As a reward for having completed his informant mission successfully he was probably dispatched to the West in late 1956. The bases of this premise are the similarity of HEINE's story with that of other known RIS-dispatched agents and the obvious discrepancies in his story. Keeping in mind, while reading the analysis, that certain elements of HEINE's story are bits of truth intermingled with RIS legend. (Historical Note: Estonia became an independent republic on 24 February 1918; joined the non-aggression pact with Germany in 1939; was occupied by the Russian Army in June 1940; was annexed as the Estonian SSR on 3 August 1940; was overrun by the Germans in 1941; and was retaken by the USSR in 1944.)

3. HEINE probably told the truth about his childhood and the circumstances concerning his first arrest in June 1940 for tearing down the Soviet flag and replacing it with the Estonian national flag. He claimed that he spent nine months in an NKVD prison for this incident.

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4. During his imprisonment his parents moved to Germany. Through their intervention, according to HEINE, he was released from prison with a "special transport of prisoners" and resettled in Germany in April 1941. This part of his story is beyond credulity. His parents, living in Germany, in no way could have secured his release from an Estonian NKVD prison. It is probable that during those nine months in prison, HEINE was recruited by the RIS as an informant.

5. In August 1941 HEINE stated that several Estonian volunteer units were formed in Germany. He claimed he joined one of these units and fought against the Soviets from 1941 to 1944. From August 1943 to March 1944 he attended an Officers' Training Course in Bad Tolz, Germany. HEINE has since been unable to recognize pictures of instructors and students who are known to have been at this training center during the time that HEINE claimed he was there. Further, members of these Estonian units claim that very little, if any, of HEINE's story about his military service or his exploits is true.

6. HEINE stated that in August 1944 he was shell-shocked during fighting near Tartu, Estonia; and while unconscious, he was taken prisoner by the Soviets. Apparently at that time he was in the uniform of a junior-grade SS officer. According to emigre sources, HEINE never tells this part of his story the same way twice. The story, not a new one, has the familiar ring of an RIS legend created to give plausibility to the transfer of any agent from one scene of action to another. It seems too unbelievable for HEINE, in a German officer's uniform to have acknowledged, after capture, that he was an Estonian, for at this time, the Soviets had occupied Estonia and considered Estonians Soviet citizens. Therefore, HEINE would be considered a traitor (that is, a Soviet citizen in German uniform fighting against other Soviets) and would have been ordered executed promptly. Yet, according to HEINE, thought he was considered a traitor, he was moved to a POW camp near Moscow -- but in March 1945 he escaped. After a short period of freedom he was recaptured and sent to the vicinity of Leningrad. In 1946 he escaped again and was able to get back to Estonia.

7. The recount of these numerous arrests, escapes, and transfers during this period follows the classic pattern of the legend given by the RIS to agents whose mission was to ferret out anti-Soviet elements. By playing the role of a POW HEINE was obeying his RIS orders but at the same time - while undergoing ostensibly what the other POWs were - he was winning the prisoners' confidence and sympathy. The frequent "escapes" from camps gave him the opportunity to inform on the POWs and then to escape from their reprisal should his camp informant activity have been blown.

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8. According to HEINE, from June 1946 to 1950 he worked with the Estonian partisans. By using false documentation he was able to travel even to Siberia to bring back displaced persons. "The persons I was supposed to bring refused to come with me and therefore I brought others". Two points are worthy of note here: (a) at this time travel, even for Soviets, was rigidly controlled; and (b) the substitution of persons. This suggests that his travel to Siberia (if indeed he went) would go undetected only if he were on an RIS mission to assist in the transfer of other penetration agents from one scene to another.

9. On 22 June 1950 he was arrested once more and found to have a weapon on his person. Once again the versions of this arrest differ. In the Canadian version he related that he was at first given the death sentence, which was later commuted to life imprisonment. In the German version he was given ten years' forced labor. Then he claims (both versions) to have bluffed the Soviets into giving him a release because of his German nationality. This part of the story lends plausibility to the supposition that by this time HEINE had proved his worth to his RIS officers and that the latter were considering his future. It is thought that the years that HEINE claims he spent in the Arkangel'sk Oblast were actually spent in training for his dispatch to the West.

10. On the basis of available information, we can speculate that the mission assigned by the RIS to HEINE consisted to emigrating to Canada where his parents resided and where he could expect to receive assistance in establishing himself. After establishing himself there as a model anti-Communist, he would have the tasks of reporting to the Soviets on his fellow countrymen - the Estonians, and to create discord among them. Further, it is our opinion that, on the basis of information gathered about his intention in 1957, HEINE's missions included moving to the United States probably to pursue the same activities there for the RIS.

11. Our knowledge of HEINE since his immigration to Canada is based almost entirely on press and emigre reports. The Canadian Estonians claim that he has been a model citizen and has been popular enough to have received the most votes in the last National Council (of Estonians) election. However, since the election there has been a split in the Council and HEINE has been accused of being the behind-the-scenes instigator of this split. Such activity follows the usual pattern.